



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: James Roney

**OHIO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SEXUAL TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN
AND CONSPIRACY**

An Ohio man charged with the sexual exploitation of children and criminal conspiracy pleaded guilty today in federal court in Detroit, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

James Roney, III, 33, of Cleveland, Ohio, entered a guilty plea to criminal conspiracy and the sexual trafficking in children before United States District Judge Patrick J. Duggan.

"The sexual exploitation of minors is a horrific crime whenever it occurs, but especially when it involves forced prostitution -- as it did in this case, said United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. "Reducing crimes of human trafficking is a key goal of my office and today's guilty plea evidences our unceasing effort to stop this pernicious criminal activity."

At today's plea hearing, Roney admitted that in June, 2007, he and co-defendant Donald Wayne Flint brought two victims, a 15 year old girl and an adult woman from

Cleveland, Ohio to Detroit for the purpose of making money through prostitution and striptease dancing, and for the purpose of having sex with them. While in Detroit, defendant Roney instructed the victims that they would have to engage in commercial sexual acts for money, including sexual intercourse and oral sex. Roney further admitted to physically and sexually assaulting the minor victim.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Roney faces up to 188 months imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The investigation of this case has was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Michigan State Police and the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. The case has been prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Saima Mohsin.